

SURSUM CORDA

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Laudetur Jesus Christus!

Branching Out

A New Convent in Costa Mesa



January 2019 was the start of a new chapter for the community of Norbertine Sisters when they began a second convent in Costa Mesa at St. John the Baptist Parish. The newest shoot sprung from the tree of St. Norbert bloomed at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Wilmington, and has been blest with growth from there. Now the Norbertine sisters have “branched out”, and they pray that the new community will also bear fruit for Christ.

With the blessing of new vocations and the convent in Wilmington reaching its capacity, the community needed to expand. God paved the way for a second convent at St. John the Baptist Parish in Costa Mesa, CA, where the Norbertine Fathers serve. The parish had a vacant convent previously occupied by the Sisters of Mercy, who were a treasured part of the parish and school community. The parishioners and staff members were happy to hear that they would have the presence of religious sisters again. They showed their love by helping clean and prepare the convent.

After meeting with Pastor Fr. Augustine Puchner, O. Praem. and his Excellency, Bishop Kevin Van, the Bishop of Orange County, the community planned to send sisters to St. John the Baptist in January 2019. Mother Hermana Lalikova, S. Praem. approved the new convent to be the Formation House where postulants and novices would reside. Sr. Adriana Gacikova, S. Praem. and Sr. Gemma Hugoboom, S. Praem., one of the Junior professed sisters, were assigned to go with the postulants, Phoebe Hoang and Desiree Falcon, to the new mission. The four of them entrusted the endeavor to God’s care.

Moving day was bittersweet as the sisters left the Wilmington community. Yet everyone was full of hope that God was beginning something new and beautiful in Costa Mesa.

Since January, the four sisters in Costa Mesa have turned the convent into a home. Besides helping in the parish school, they are gradually taking on different ministries, such as a prayer group for the school children, *Parate Viam*, and a young women’s Bible Sharing group. The focus of the community is the formation of new vocations. With God’s blessing, this “new branch” will bear fruits of love, peace and joy and will become a home where vocations bloom!



From the Formation House

Entrance into Novitiate

On August 15th, the feast of the Assumption, two postulants, Phoebe Hoang and Desiree Falcon were received as novices into the Congregation.

Upon entering the Novitiate, Phoebe and Desiree's religious life officially began. They were given white veils as a sign of their deepening consecration to God. Before Fr. Gregory Dick, O.Praem., and the community, they expressed their desire to live the life of a Norbertine sister.

The new novices will spend two years learning how to conform their lives to the teaching of the Gospel while being gradually integrated into the common life. May God bless them as they continue to follow His call and seek His face!



Entrance into Postulancy

The word "postulant" comes from the Latin word for "asking." But what is a postulant asking for? On the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity, two young women, Rachel Beck and Nikki Dinh asked in the presence of Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.Praem., for "the mercy of God and admission as postulant to the Congregation of Norbertine Sisters."

Rachel and Nikki have felt the call to live a deeper commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. In prayer and in spending time with the community in discernment, they realized that they were drawn to the Norbertine way of life. They followed their desire and asked to be admitted as postulants. The community accepted them, and celebrated their entrance on September 8th. For her birthday, Our Lady received the beautiful gift of two hearts eager to give themselves to God!



The Marks of our Congregation: Apostolic Life

Why We Serve

St. Norbert exhorted his sons and daughters to live as did the apostles, who “with great power gave witness to the Resurrection.” It is also our mission to proclaim the Gospel and give witness to the mystery of Christ.

Christ lives in us, the members of His Mystical Body. By serving others we become His hands and feet.

Resurrected and in glory, He continues His work through the Church which is empowered by the Holy Spirit. A Norbertine Sister lives daily in touch with the mystery of the Resurrection. In prayer we listen to God’s word, adore His presence and receive Him in Communion. We also experience His presence in one another, becoming one in Him as a religious community. The love of Christ fills us, and overflows in acts of service.

The apostolate of a Norbertine sister is not a duty to be performed. It is the fruit of having met the Risen Christ and entered into this great “mystery of devotion.” It brings forth a joy which cannot be contained, but must be shared with others. Apostolate is sharing the wonder and joy of the resurrection! In the spirit of St. Norbert we are “ready for every good work!”

Where We Serve



Ss. Peter and Paul School

We are called to be “prepared for every good work.” In our parish communities we give

witness to the Kingdom of God through consecrated

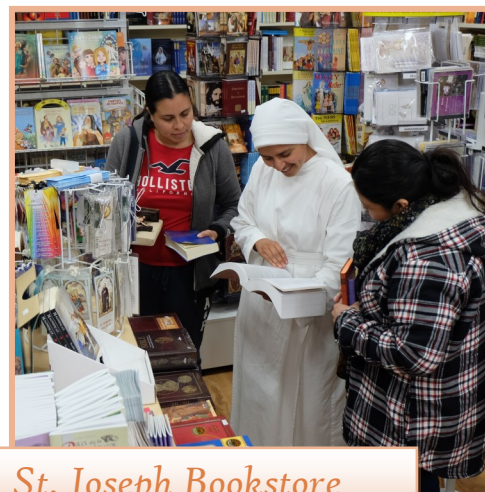
life. Whether in the classroom, with the poor, or in the bookstore, our mission is the same: to pray for and serve the Church by showing the love of Christ to all we meet.



St. John the Baptist School



Poverty Program



St. Joseph Bookstore



Come and pray...

Days of Recollection

"Come away by yourselves and rest..."

Holy Hour

Join the Norbertine sisters for a day of prayer and reflection.

Monthly Bible Sharing Group

The Norbertine Sisters invite young women ages 18-30 for an evening of prayer.

When: Every second Friday of the Month

Where: St. John the Baptist Convent, 2960 Mendoza Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

What time: 6:30-8:30pm

What to bring: Bible, journal, and an open mind & heart



Come and see...

"They asked Him, 'Lord, where are you staying?' He said, 'Come and see.'"

Do you feel drawn by the idea of religious life? Have you sensed the Lord's voice and would like to spend time discerning His call? Plan a come-and-see visit by contacting Sr. Benedikta Hornikova, S. Praem. (Information below)

For information about vocations

or to RSVP for an event, please contact:

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